Duty free shops at Airports

245. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India had invited applications from Indian/foreign companies for opening Duty Free shops at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and at some other airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Indian and foreign companies which submitted their applications in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that no Indian company was found suitable for the purpose and only two foreign companies were selected to open Duty Free shops at these international airports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the criteria adopted for selection of companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Global Tenders were invited for development and running of additional duty free shops at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Trichy airports.

(c) New York Fragrence Inc., New York and Flemingo International Ltd., Dubai were the parties who submitted tenders for the facility.

(d) and (e) M/s Indian Tourism Development *Corporation,* the only Indian company was not eligible for issuance of the tender documents due to their non-fulfilment of the tender conditions. As regards two above companies who have submitted their bids, the technical evaluation process is underway.

(f) Parties who have minimum 5 years experience of operating Duty Free shops in India/abroad and having a minimum annual turnover of not less than Rs. 70 crores (US $ 16,666,667) from the operation in India/abroad were eligible to participate in the tenders. Airports Authority of India (AAI) do not issue tender documents to ex-licensee(s)/existing licensee(s) who are having outstanding dues except the disputed dues referred to an arbitrator for adjudication as per terms and conditions of the licence agreements, parties debarred/black listed and parties facing action against Public Premises Eviction Act with AAI.